(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) A project under the Technical Cooperation Programme of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations entitled "Training in the Sea Safety Development Programme" has been approved for implementation in the coastal area of East Godavari Districts of Andhra Pradesh with an outlay of US$ 316000. This pilot project has provision for installing shore to boat communication system on fishing vessels, saftey equipment and live saving devices and outboard motors for selected beneficiaries. The project has provision for training of beneficiaries in the use and maintenance of the equipment.

Adverse Impact of Closure of Shrimp Farm

2104. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAM BHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of workers employed in over 2000 shrimp-farms are likely to be thrown out of employment with the closure of these farms as per Supreme Court's order, besides its adverse impact on food-production and exports;

(b) if so, the number of persons to be so affected; and

(c) the steps taken to provide them with alternative employment and rehabilitate their families?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) to (c) A petition has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking review of the judgement of the Supreme Court. The matter is subjudice.

Schemes for Promotion of Horticulture

2105. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes to promote Horticulture in the country; and

(b) whether Government are proposing to give some subsidy to the persons engaged in Horticulture?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) For the promotion of horticulture in the country, various schemes relating to development of fruits, vegetables, floriculture, mushroom, coconut, cashewnut, spices, cocoa, areacanut, betelving and promoting use of plastic in horticultural crops, are being implemented. Under these schemes various type of assistance/subsidies are already being provided to the farmers for improving production/productivity of different crops.

Fall in Foodgrains Production

2106. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Economic Survey has indicated a 3–4% fall in Foodgrains production;

(b) whether the fall in Foodgrains production may result in increase in prices and also necessitate imports; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard and the steps proposed to be taken by Government to overcome the shortfall in production of Foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) According to the Economic Survey 1996-97, the fall in foodgrains production in 1995-96 is 3.4 per cent a s compared to 1994-95. However, the production of foodgrains during 1996-97 has been assessed to be 191.18 million tonnes, which is 3.3 percent higher than that during 1995-96.